

Dear Representatives,

It is wild, and unacceptable, for a Democratic Majority in 2023 to invest \$400 million in Corrections to increase the prison population by 1200 -- and even potentially end up with the same staffing and capacity crises we have now in two years, as is projected in the Governor's budget.

This is nothing but what would be expected of Democrats by Republicans, wasteful government spending without impacts on regular people's lives.

Yet there is a simple way around this, in four amendments that require no increase in cost, nor a dramatic upending of the proposed budget.

How?

1. **Instruct the Department of Corrections to ensure that at least 600 people are released by the MRRRA in the next two years.** This estimate assumes a 30% retroactive completion rate. A more fair goal might be 1200 (60% completion) or 1500 (a 75% completion). *Point being, hold the administration accountable for their core policy having results, in this biennium.*
2. **Shift the \$10 million wasted on paying for an increased prison population to work release to ensure there isn't a population increase,** reducing the prison population by 300 while increasing safety and saving money. There is a line for this in the House Omnibus Bill.
3. **Require your \$145 million investment in supervision to come with a requirement that technical violators not be housed in prisons.** This is common sense supported by prison staff and IPs alike, and ends the use of prisons as a short term warehouse which DOC data shows reduces safety.
4. **Instruct the Commissioner to expand medical release to the full extent of the law.** This is basic humanity for our severely old, sick, and disabled relatives, and it would powerfully improve the horrific health care in our facilities without requiring major investments, by shifting those needing the most care to an appropriate setting, dramatically increasing care for those incarcerated.

Summary of Proposed Amendments	Projected Savings based on DOC per diem	Impact on Prison Population
1. Instruct DOC to MRRRA to reduce population by a minimum of 600 as part of "maintaining current service levels"	\$30 million, reinvested	-600
2. Shift \$10 million budget for "increased population" to work release	\$5 million	-300
3. Require \$145 million investment in supervision to end sending technical violators to prison	\$25 million	-500
4. Instruct DOC to increase use of medical release under existing law	\$10 million for DOC, cost neutral for Minnesota	-200
	<b>\$60 million in savings</b>	<b>-1600</b>

We can increase safety for prison staff, incarcerated people, impacted communities, and the public at large with these four simple amendments, none of which increase cost, and only one of which requires any shift in budget lines.

Please don't make a once in a generation investment to end up where you started. We don't need more violence and crises, cutbacks, and the likely elimination of the modest rehabilitative investments you have made as part of this dramatic budget increase.

Sincerely

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